

The Times

RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1897.

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THE PRICE OF ARMOR PLATE

Lively Discussion in the Senate Over the Question.

MOTIVE TO BUILD GOVERNMENT FACTORY

An Amendment to the Deficiency Bill Requiring the Price of Three Hundred Dollars a Ton. The Bill with Other Amendments Passed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 13.—The price to be paid for armor plates for the three new battleships now in course of construction was the basis of extended, and at times, very heated, debate in the Senate today, as in the day an amendment to the deficiency appropriation bill was passed in restricting the price of armor plate to \$60 per ton, or \$18 less than the amount reported by the committee, and recommended by the Navy Department as the minimum rate acceptable to the wants of the service.

A amendment inserted in the bill, by the Secretary of the Navy to instruct him to establish a government armor factory, and to report in the next session of Congress, failing to do so, he would be liable to a fine of \$1000.

Mr. Teller, of Colorado, said:

"Why was with Spain would be a trifling affair as far as we are concerned," said Mr. Teller. He ridiculed the idea of having ships if they were not to be sent where needed. "We have had a good deal to trouble over our ships any way," Mr. Teller said, and, probably they would be as well off the stocks as in service. It would be a greater surrender of national dignity to have to pay the armor contractors than to let the ships stand on the stocks and the Senate, as far as I can see, has done its duty in requiring all the time rather than to let it be to the armor contractors."

THOMAS HUNTINGTON & TOW.

A vote was taken yesterday on the amendment limiting the cost of armor to \$60 per ton. It was carried on a voice vote.

Mr. Hale and one of two others being the only ones to vote in the negative.

Mr. Butler then offered an amendment authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to make investigations and receive propositions for the establishment of a government armor factory and report to Congress at its next session. It was agreed to.

Other amendments to the bill were made as follows: For improvement of Commerce and Trade, \$100,000; for the establishment of a government armor factory, and to report in the next session of Congress, failing to do so, he would be liable to a fine of \$1000.

The deficiency appropriation bill was passed.

At 5 P. M. the Senate held an executive session and then adjourned.

THE TARIFF CONFERENCE.

Book of the Big Questions Before Them are Settled.

WASHINGTON, July 13.—The representatives of the two Houses of Congress in conference on the tariff bill spent a busy day, devoted for the most part to work in the conference room. There were occasional consultations with other senators or members of the House upon points at issue, but these were brief so that comparatively little information as to the progress found its way to outside.

It will be remembered last year that the Senate had voted to limit the cost of armor to \$60 per ton, but this was rescinded upon either side.

Senator Platt, of New York, who has been absent most of the time since the bill went into conference, returned and was in close conference much of the day with Senator Quay.

At 4 P. M. during the afternoon the House and Senate conferees separated the House returning to the Ways and Means Committee room. It was generally believed that this action on the part of the House men was for the purpose of deciding upon a line of policy on armor, but they declined to give out any information.

Contrary to published reports, it is positively asserted that the Senate schedule has not been agreed upon and in fact that all the big questions before the conference which have seemingly been settled are only tentatively agreed to, one side of the other insisting that they shall be held open. Nothing will be finally closed so far as the matters of importance are concerned until all have been decided upon and the conferees are ready to come to a complete agreement.

It is said the wood schedule which has occupied the attention of the conferees more or less today and yesterday can be set aside whenever other matters have reached a stage for full adjustment.

If the conferees can reach a complete agreement by Friday, one of them said to-day, he would be more than satisfied.

IN SESSION THREE MINUTES.

Stockless Simpson Raised a Laugh in the House.

WASHINGTON, July 13.—The House took a recess today until 11 o'clock, at noon without transacting any business.

Mr. Cannon, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee of last Congress announced that it was evident that the deficiency bill would not be ready to act upon until to-morrow, and he therefore adjourned.

He added, however, that the Senate had accepted his motion to adjourn.

At 1 P. M. the conferees can reach a complete agreement by Friday, one of them said to-day, he would be more than satisfied.

DEFENSIVE PLATES.

Mr. Teller, of Colorado, insisted that many of the strongest armor plates were to be used and said their exact location on war vessels was specified to the report of the House Naval Committee.

When Mr. Butler reiterated the statement as to the extent of the defensive plates in use, Mr. Hale interrupted with a sweeping denial. He said that such a provision would be appalling if it existed in reality, but there was no warrant for the assertions by the North Carolina Senator. He utterly and absolutely denied that any portion of the armor plates now on warships was unserviceable.

Mr. Butler questioned these statements saying that none of the defective plates were at present in actual service on warships.

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IS HOMICIDE ACCIDENT?

A Case Involving the Question to be Heard in the United States Court.

The next session of the District Court of the United States for this district will be held on Aug. 10, and the question before the court is interesting to note if a man who has been killed by another meets accidental death or not.

Mr. Cannon, however, said that what had been done of the House resolution was the result of the tragic investigation.

It had come to a Democratic Senate that unless there was some need of talk, Mr. Cannon, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee of last Congress, said that the bill would be referred to the House.

The Speaker, who then put Mr. Cannon's motion, which was carried, into the House, was in session but three minutes.

THE COAL MINERS.

Billing Has Commenced—What Governor Atkinson Says.

DANVILLE, Va., July 13.—Strike between the miners commenced in this district to-night. About 400 or 500 Belgian strikers and other foreigners gathered at the Phoenix Mine, and, after a short time, all of colored miners who had been at work during the night of the strike, had joined the Belgians.

"The revolution," said Morena, "is participating in the present moment to the Orient and Camague Province."

SPANIARDS RUINED.

The Spaniards are in possession of one or two small pieces, and they suffer every day from the want of food and ammunition. Their camps are dominated by sickness and numbers are decreasing every day to join the ranks of the insurgents.

Morena, as leader of the Cuban miners, is in health and has a good supply of food and ammunition. All are well organized, and the principal difficulty is to keep them in clothes.

The election of a President was commenced in the month of May, and has been held in general districts of patriotic miners on the Sabbath among the Cubans. The result will not be made known until October.

The candidates are General Garcia, General Masso, and Seymour Capote. Dr. Hernandez is also among the leaders.

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